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Cal Poly presidential candidate series: Dr. Carlo Montemagno

University of Cincinnati engineering dean on campus today



COURTESY PHOTO

Dr. Carlo Montemagno, a candidate for the position of Cal Poly president, is scheduled to visit campus today. Events include an open student forum from 10:50 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in Chumash Auditorium and a community forum from 4:10 to 5:30 p.m. in the Advanced Technologies Laboratories.

Tim Miller

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Cal Poly presidential candidate Carlo Montemagno is currently the dean of the College of Engineering at the University of Cincinnati. In the 30 years since he earned his bachelor's degree from Cornell University, Montemagno has worked for the Navy, received a doctorate and started his career in academia.

After earning his bachelor's of science for agricultural and biological engineering from Cornell in 1980, Montemagno joined the Navy to serve in the civil engineering corps for 10 years. He then went to Penn State University, where he got a master's degree in petroleum and natural gas engineering. He went on to get his Ph.D. in civil engineering and geological sciences from Notre Dame University.

Montemagno then returned to Cornell to start his academic career

as a professor. He went on to become the chair of the bioengineering department at University of California, Los Angeles.

Under Montemagno, Cincinnati's College of Engineering was ranked 75th in the nation among schools that offer a doctorate degree, by U.S. News and World Report. Cal Poly's engineering program was ranked 6th for schools that do not offer a doctorate program. The University of Cincinnati is about twice the size of Cal Poly and is nearly 200 years old.

Montemagno was the recipient of the Feynman Prize for Experimental Work in Nanotechnology as well as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nanomedicine. He is also the co-director of the NASA Center for Cell Mimetic Space Exploration.

His research has focused on "building a blood cell-size 'submarine' intended for critical medical maneuvers inside the human body," according to the Lifeboat Founda-

tion.

Montemagno has numerous patents based on his research in nanotechnology.

Cal Poly Vice President for Student Affairs Cornel Morton said he hopes the next president will support students, noting that he was biased in his wish.

"I am hopeful that we get a student-centered president," he said, "like President Baker has been."

Morton said while he doesn't know too much about Montemagno, he hopes that no matter who becomes president, students still have a voice in the decision-making process.

Montemagno will visit campus today. He will be present to answer students' questions from 10:50 a.m. till 11:30 in Chumash Auditorium. There will also be a faculty forum from 1:10 to 1:50 p.m. in Alex and Faye Spanos Theatre and an open forum from 4:10 to 5:30 p.m. in the Advanced Technology Laboratories.

Students recognized for community service

John McCullough

JOHNMCCULLOUGH.MD@GMAIL.COM

Faculty, students and community members convened at the president's house on campus for the 24th annual Community Service Awards Thursday afternoon. Individuals and groups received awards for their "contributions to the quality of life" in San Luis Obispo and their "spirit of civic engagement."

dents to be able to give back to their community. Much of students' education comes from things they learn outside the classroom."

Baker followed with the presidential address. This will be his last award ceremony as he announced his retirement in December.

"What students do outside of the classroom is as important as what they do inside," Baker said. "Many of the students here have said that about half

service learning, students are able to gain knowledge about their community and the groups they volunteer with, she said.

Alptekin is also one of the members of the President's Community Service panel. Choosing the recipients of the awards is based on how the individual or group recognizes a need and finds a way to meet it, she said.

"Service learning links course content to the community through organized service activities, which enhance the academic experience and encourage participation in the community," she said.

Alptekin said all of the recipients work very hard for their community and recognize their ability to serve those less fortunate. She asked Baker to designate a bigger portion of Cal Poly's budget to service learning. The crowd laughed; according to Cal Poly's website, university officials are still trying to deal with the state's \$24 billion shortfall.

The awards were given out in four different categories with multiple recipients in each. Each category is designed to highlight specific achievements in service.

The awards are competitive and selected on the basis of the written nominations submitted by faculty, staff and students.

The award for Significant Contribution was given to Hunter Francis,

see Service, page 5

Sona Andrews speaks at presidential search forum

Tim Miller

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Sona K. Andrews, one of the three candidates being considered for Cal Poly's presidential position, started off yesterday's public forum by noting her current university, Boise State, was ranked the third up-and-coming university in the West, according to U.S. News and World Report. She then pointed out, despite her pride in

the ranking, that she was disappointed it wasn't No. 1. That distinction is held by Cal Poly.

In the forum, Andrews briefly went over her academic priorities starting with "students come first."

The majority of the time was spent answering audience members' questions. Most of the questions came from Cal Poly faculty, with the notable exception of Gil Stork, the president of

see Andrews, page 5

What students do outside of the classroom is as important as what they do inside.

— Warren Baker
Cal Poly President

The event began with speeches from faculty involved in various programs devoted to community service, including Ken Barclay, the director of Student Life and Leadership, President Warren Baker and representatives of AmeriCorps.

Barclay introduced the event and the people involved. He discussed why it's so important for Cal Poly to provide students with an outlet for community service.

"President Baker and I both came to this school around the same time," he said. "We both saw the need for stu-

of what they learned at Cal Poly comes from those extracurriculars. We want to make sure we can provide a way for students to give back to the community."

Many of these out-of-the-classroom activities involve some sort of giving back to the community, and that deserves to be recognized, he said.

"Even in a time like this, it's important for us to realize what we have and to give back," Baker said.

Sema Alptekin, faculty liaison for service learning at Cal Poly, was another faculty member to speak. Through



RYAN SIDARTO MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly presidential candidate Dr. Sona K. Andrews spoke at a student forum yesterday morning and an open forum later in the day.

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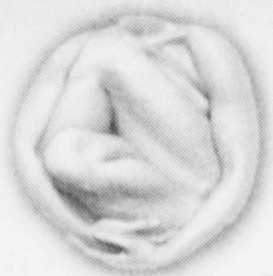
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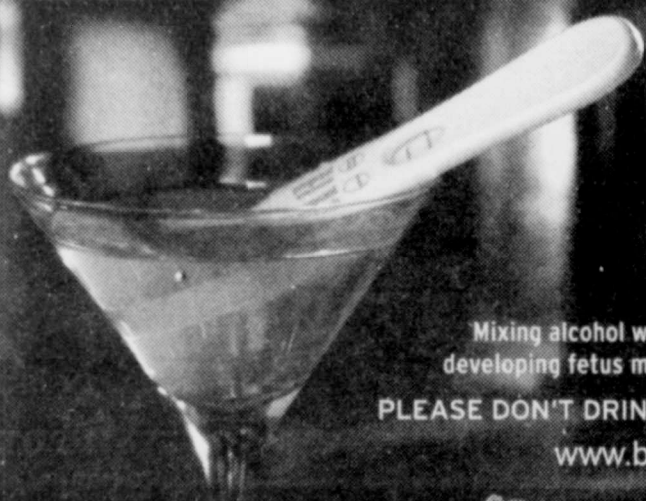
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Briefs

State

SAN LUIS OBISPO (MCT)—Habitat for Humanity says it should not have to pay \$29,000 the county says it owes because of additional traffic it expects the nonprofit organization to generate at its improved facility in Templeton.

Habitat for Humanity, whose operation involves recycling materials from landfills, says it cannot afford the fee and hints in an appeal letter that the cost might delay or even kill its plans.

The county Department of Public Works says that according to its formulas the tax is both fair and necessary.

...

CHINO (MCT)—A jury found a man guilty of first-degree murder this morning in the fatal shooting of his cousin, a prosecutor said.

Jurors deliberated two days in Chino Superior Court before returning a guilty verdict for Miguel Ramos, 29, who was accused of targeting 25-year-old Valentin Barria two years ago because he believed Barria had an affair with his wife.

Ramos, of Chino, faces a prison sentence of 50 years to life, which includes 25 to life for first-degree murder plus an additional 25 to life because Ramos used a gun, said Deputy District Attorney Anil Kaushal.

National

PENNSYLVANIA (MCT)—Even though he's been making the rounds of such early presidential primary and caucus states as New Hampshire, Iowa and South Carolina, former U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., said Monday he's still "a long way" from making up his mind about a 2012 bid for the White House.

"I can make a difference in the short term," Santorum said of his appearances on the rubber chicken circuit and fundraisers in those critical states. "We'll wait and see what happens beyond that."

Santorum predicted electoral success for Toomey, dismissing Sestak as a loyalist for President Barack Obama.

...

WASHINGTON (MCT)—The Pentagon said Monday it plans to participate in new military exercises with South Korea, the first direct military response from the United States to the sinking of a South Korean warship by what officials called a North Korean torpedo.

Pentagon spokesman Bryan G. Whitman said U.S. forces will participate in an anti-submarine maneuver in "the near future." In a second planned exercise, U.S. units along with South Korea and possibly other regional allies will work to improve their ability to interdict cargo ships carrying arms or other prohibited materials to or from North Korea.

International

YEMEN (MCT)—Armed tribesmen kidnapped two American tourists on Monday in rugged territory about 45 miles outside the capital, Sana, according to news reports and Yemeni security officials.

The man and woman were traveling by car when they and their Yemeni driver and guide were abducted in al-Haymah district. The Yemen Observer reported that gunmen brought the Americans, believed to be a man and his wife, to a village where they were offered food and qat leaves, a mild stimulant traditionally chewed by Yemenis.

Media reports said the kidnappers were demanding the release of a clansman arrested in a land dispute.

...

AFGHANISTAN (MCT)—Four civilians and two Afghan army soldiers were among those killed in the latest incidents of violence in strife-torn Afghanistan, officials said Sunday.

Many of the country's areas still have anti-personal mines left from Soviet Union era and civil war of the 1990s. Many Afghans are also killed in mine explosions caused by Taliban insurgents.

Two Afghan army troops were killed and five others were wounded when their patrol were hit by roadside bombs in southern provinces of Kandahar, Helmand and Zabul on Sunday, the Defence Ministry said in a statement.

Supreme Court rules on discrimination suit for black firefighters

David G. Savage

TRIBUNE WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court reinstated a discrimination ruling Monday in favor of 6,000 black applicants for Chicago firefighting jobs in the 1990s, leaving public employers in a pickle if they are required by law to use tests for deciding who should be hired or promoted.

After two Supreme Court decisions with very different results in the past year, they can be sued for using tests that screen out most blacks and other minorities, and they also can be sued by high-scoring white applicants if the test scores go unused.

The apparent conflict is built into the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the justices said Monday. "It is a problem for Congress, not one federal courts can fix," said Justice Antonin Scalia.

He spoke for the court in a 9-0 ruling in a case that began in 1995 when 26,000 applicants took a written test to become a city firefighter. Faced with the large number applicants for only several hundred jobs, the city decided it would only consider those who scored 89 or above.

This cut-off score excluded a high percentage of the minority applicants. And after a trial in 2005, U.S. District Judge Joan Gottschall ruled the test had an illegal "disparate impact" because the city had not justified the use of the cut-off score. Experts had testified that applicants who scored in the 70s or 80s were shown to be capable of succeeding as firefighters.

The city did not appeal the disparate impact finding, but said the firefighters had waited too long to appeal. In Monday's ruling, the high court disagreed.

Last year, however, the high court ruled that disappointed white firefight-

ers were victims of discrimination by city officials in New Haven, Conn., which had dropped a promotion test after they learned no black candidates were among the top scorers. In a 5-4 ruling, the justices said this amounted to illegal racial bias against the white firefighters.

Nationwide, about 20 million employees work for city and state governments. And in many of these agencies, tests are used to hire and promote employees.

That in turn has led to years of litigation on whether the tests are fair. The Chicago case decided Monday turned on a narrow issue of timing.

The U.S. 7th Circuit Court of Appeals had thrown out the suit by the black applicants on the grounds they had waited too long to sue. But the justices reversed that ruling in Lewis v. Chicago.

The decision dealt a potentially costly defeat to the city of Chicago Monday. Earlier this year, a lawyer for black applicants estimated the total damages in the case could reach \$100 million.

The ruling was welcomed by John Payton, president of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, who argued the case. "This victory goes well beyond the immediate results in Chicago. It should ensure that no other fire department or employer uses a discriminatory test," he said.

Chicago Mayor Richard Daley voiced some weariness with the years of litigation. "For decades we have tried to diversify the Chicago Fire Department. But at every turn, like most cities, we have been met with legal challenges from both sides," he said.

Since 2006, Daley said, the city has used a "pass-fail" approach so that all those who have passing scores are eligible for jobs.

Word on the Street

What are some things that you would like to see in the new president do?



"Spend money more wisely."

-Ryan Fulton,
bioresource and agricultural
engineering freshman



"Listen to the students' voice
because they are paying tu-
ition."

-Taylor Feezor,
agricultural business junior



"Focus more on budget is-
sues."

-Julia Dean,
chemistry freshman



"Know the culture of Cal Poly
and maybe have gone to the
school."

-Erik Johnson,
agricultural business junior



"Talk to students more about
where the money goes."

-Rebecca Tortorich,
agricultural business junior



"Try to relate to the stu-
dents."

-Scott Swenson,
earth science sophomore

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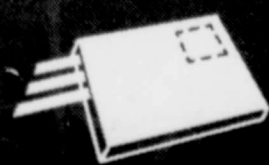


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McChrystal calls Marjah a 'bleeding ulcer' in Afghan campaign

Dion Nissenbaum

MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

MARJAH, Afghanistan — Army Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the top allied military commander in Afghanistan, sat gazing at maps of Marjah as a Marine battalion commander asked him for more time to oust Taliban fighters from a longtime stronghold in southern Afghanistan's Helmand province.

"You've got to be patient," Lt. Col. Brian Christmas told McChrystal. "We've only been here 90 days."

"How many days do you think we have before we run out of support by the international community?" McChrystal replied.

A charged silence settled in the stuffy, crowded chapel tent at the Marine base in the Marjah district.

"I can't tell you, sir," the tall, tow-headed, Fort Bragg, N.C., native finally answered.

"I'm telling you," McChrystal said. "We don't have as many days as we'd like."

The operation in Marjah is supposed to be the first blow in a decisive campaign to oust the Taliban from their spiritual homeland in adjacent Kandahar province, one that McChrystal had hoped would bring security and stability to Marjah and begin to convey an "irreversible sense of momentum" in the U.S.-led campaign in

Afghanistan.

Instead, a tour last week of Marjah and the nearby Nad Ali district, during which McClatchy Newspapers had rare access to meetings between McChrystal and top Western strategists, drove home the hard fact that President Barack Obama's plan to begin pulling American troops out of Afghanistan in July 2011 is colliding with the realities of the war.

There aren't enough U.S. and Afghan forces to provide the security that's needed to win the loyalty of wary locals. The Taliban have beheaded Afghans who cooperate with foreigners in a creeping intimidation campaign. The Afghan government hasn't dispatched enough local administrators or trained police to establish credible governance, and now the Taliban have begun their anticipated spring offensive.

"This is a bleeding ulcer right now," McChrystal told a group of Afghan officials, international commanders in southern Afghanistan and civilian strategists who are leading the effort to oust the Taliban fighters from Helmand.

"You don't feel it here," he said during a 10-hour front-line strategy review, "but I'll tell you, it's a bleeding ulcer outside."

Throughout the day, McChrystal expressed impatience with the pace of operations, echoing the mounting

pressure he's under from his civilian bosses in Washington and Europe to start showing progress.

Progress in Marjah has been slow, however, in part because no one who planned the operation realized how hard it would be to convince residents that they could trust representatives of an Afghan government that had sent them corrupt police and inept leaders before they turned to the Taliban.

A hundred days after U.S.-led forces launched the offensive, Marjah markets are thriving, the local governor has begun to build a skeleton staff, and contractors have begun work on rebuilding schools, canals and bridges.

Yet, Marines are running into more firefights on their patrols. Taliban insurgents threaten and kill residents who cooperate with the Americans, and it will be months before a permanent police force is ready to take control of the streets from the temporary force that's brought some stability to Marjah.

The U.S.-backed Marjah governor, Marine officials said, has five top ministers. Eight of 81 certified teachers are on the job, and 350 of an estimated 10,000 students are going to school.

In an attempt to contain the creeping Taliban campaign, Lt. Col. Christmas' 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, in northern Marjah recently ceded direct control of an outlying

rural area, collapsed its battle space and moved a company back into the population center, which had been neglected.

"There was no security," said Haji Mohammed Hassan, a tribal elder whose fear of the Taliban prompted him to leave Marjah two weeks ago for the relative safety of Helmand's nearby provincial capital, Lashkar Gah.

"By day there is government," he said. "By night it's the Taliban."

Even in Nad Ali, where British commanders have had success holding elections, opening schools and building the beginnings of a functioning local government, there are significant pockets of Taliban resistance. The local police force, the British commander said, is about half the size that's needed to patrol the area.

"What we have done, in my view, we have given the insurgency a chance to be a little bit credible," McChrystal said in one meeting. "We said: 'We're taking it back.' We came in to take it back. And we haven't been completely convincing."

Still, no one proposed sending more troops to Marjah.

McChrystal's top commanders in southern Afghanistan did weigh a suggestion from the top U.S. Marine general in the country, who said the time had come to gamble on turning over some areas to Afghan control more

quickly than planned.

"I think if we want to shorten the timelines, then we are going to have to assume more risk in certain areas," said Marine Maj. Gen. Richard P. Mills.

In the final briefing of the tour last week, one American civilian strategist told McChrystal that it would be hard to force Marjah residents to shed their skepticism quickly.

"The vast majority of people are going to be on the fence, and they're going to wait," said the U.S. official, who asked not to be identified because the meeting was meant to offer candid advice to McChrystal.

Andrews

continued from page 1

Cuesta Community College. Stork asked Andrews about how the relationship between the two schools would move forward with enrollment at Cal Poly being lowered. Andrews said transportability between community colleges and Cal Poly was important to the transfer rate and universities need to ensure there is not a gap in students' educations between institutions.

Vice President for Student Affairs Cornel Morton, who attended an earlier student forum, said Andrews did very well responding to the concerns of the Cal Poly community.

"I think she was very, very impressive. She answered a number of difficult questions well," he said.

When asked how she would spend her time as president, Andrews joked she would try and spend all of her time working both on and off cam-

pus.

"I get asked the question, 'How will you divide your time?' And my answer is 100 percent of my time off campus and 100 percent of my time on campus," she said, adding, "It's not about balance, it's about choices."

She said it is important to know what is happening on campus to be able to represent it externally.

Sociology junior Daniel Galvan said he was impressed with how approachable Andrews seemed.

"As a student of color, I like the fact that once a month she has a lunch with minority students (at Boise State)," he said. "Cal Poly, as of now, could do more for our students of color."

Diversity was a recurring theme in the forum. There were several members from the Diversity Coalition, a group of faculty members who want to make sure the promotion of diversity is considered when picking the next president.

Coalition member Jasna Jovanovic,

a psychology and child development associate professor, said she hopes all three of the candidates will commit to promoting diversity on campus. She noted Andrews had the track record to accomplish the task.

"We think that she would pay attention and be involved in creating more diversity on campus," she said.

Jovanovic and coalition member Kathryn Rummell, also chair of the English department, declined to state if any of the candidates were on a list of recommended presidential prospects sent to the Chancellor's Office.

To recruit and retain both faculty and students, a fundamental change in the culture of an institution must occur, Andrews said.

Rummell was also concerned that the next president preserves Cal Poly's liberal arts curriculum.

"We want to make sure the president understands the concept of a interdisciplinary polytechnic university and that there is a place for liberal arts," she said.

Service

continued from page 1

Cassidy Nicholls, Lauren Herrera and the Cal Poly Lion Dance Team.

The award highlights excellence in identifying a need, creating awareness, providing a new service or having a lasting impact on a broad community population through volunteer service.

Computer engineering sophomore Devin Tang was one of the students accepting the award on the dance group's behalf. The Lion Dancers perform for different events and groups around San Luis Obispo to spread awareness of traditional Chinese culture, Tang said.

"We didn't even know about the awards before this," Tang said. "It feels good to be appreciated for something we like doing."

The award for Service Learning is given to any faculty, staff or interdisciplinary team that demonstrates

an innovative approach to engaging the community through curriculum-related service, while simultaneously meeting a community need. Winners in the Service Learning category included Lynne Slivorsky, Aydin Nazmi, Grace Yeh, David Gillette and Thomas Fowler.

Winners of the President's Community Service Award for Greek Community Contribution included Alpha Chi Omega, Alpha Epsilon and Alpha Omicron Pi. This category focuses on awarding fraternities and sororities who have contributed outstanding volunteer service, aside from philanthropic activities, to the community of San Luis Obispo County.

The award for Outstanding Community Partner goes to organizations throughout the city of San Luis Obispo who have provided Cal Poly students with an outlet to serve their community and make a "lasting impact" on a broad community population through their volunteer services."

This award was given to the Boys and Girls Club of North San Luis Obispo County and the United Way Youth Board of San Luis Obispo County.

Lauren Cross, executive director of the Boys and Girls Club, has been working closely with Cal Poly students for the past two years. She is constantly communicating with students via e-mail and organizing events, which Cal Poly students volunteer at.

Cal Poly students have volunteered more than 600 hours of service with the club, she said.

"Nonprofits are often in competition with each other for funding, so it's nice to be able to work with Cal Poly," Cross said. "We have a great give-and-take relationship with Cal Poly; everyone wins."

Students at Cal Poly who want to volunteer their services have an outlet to donate their time and services, and the Boys and Girls Club gets the help it needs, Cross said.

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Poly Paws raises money for local animal shelters with Furry 5k Walk

Erin Hurley

ERINHURLEY.MD@GMAIL.COM

The Poly Paws program held its inaugural Furry 5K Walk at Laguna Lake Park to raise money for several San Luis Obispo animal shelters Saturday.

Poly Paws is a program in Cal Poly's Student Community Services that supports neglected animals and emphasizes the importance of the relationships between owners and their pets.

Every dollar donated by the participants at registration gave them raffle tickets to win prizes provided by San Luis Obispo businesses.

About 20 Cal Poly students and Central Coast residents participated; the event raised more than \$300. The money collected will go to three shelters: the Humane Society of America, the Woods Humane Society and the Animal Shelter Adoption Services of San Luis Obispo County.

Poly Paws coordinators Megan Marsh and Christina Condon said the event highlighted animal abuse and neglect — problems that are more serious than most people realize.

"Most people think that supporting animals is important, but they're often misinformed about the fact that problems are not getting any better," Condon, an animal science senior, said. "I hope this event shows people that every person can make a difference and every little bit helps."

The coordinators put up fliers around San Luis Obispo, sent out e-mails, contacted local business for support and donations and held fundraisers at Laguna Grill and California Pizza Kitchen. Several local businesses, including Subway, Jamba Juice and The Hemp Shack donated raffle prizes such as dog leashes, truffles and gift certificates.

Groups on campus also supported the walk. The Cal Poly Cat Program is a program that was begun as



Participants of the Poly Paws' Furry 5K Walk at Laguna Lake Park raised more than \$300 Saturday for animal shelters including the Woods Humane Society.

a senior project in 1992 to domesticate stray cats on campus and find homes for them. Many supporters of Poly Paws are also involved with the Cal Poly Cat Program. Staff member Edie Griffin-Shaw said the Furry 5K walk is a way for students to "learn by doing."

"This kind of event is great because it really does give students a chance to be directly involved with the effort to support animals," Griffin-Shaw said. "Our relationship with Poly Paws is great, and I really hope this event keeps going in the future so we can be more involved."

The club also rallied support from beyond San Luis Obispo. The Central Coast Parkour group set up a booth at the walk, selling water and snacks and donated all the proceeds to Poly Paws. A local member of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) also set up an informational booth with flyers on topics such as animal abuse and the danger of puppy mills.

Some of the participants in Saturday's walk were Central Coast residents who have experience racing for a cause. Bill and Patty Huffman traveled from Aromas with their dog Buddy to walk with their

daughter Holl-Lee, a first-year psychology graduate student at Cal Poly.

"We thought this would be a great thing for us because we love to participate in these kind of races as a family, but we usually have to leave Buddy home. It's great that the whole family could be a part of this walk," Holl-Lee said.

Other participants were attracted by the cause the walk supported. Amy Monroe is a San Luis Obispo resident who saw the flyer for the walk at Laguna Grill and came to participate with her fiancé.

"When we heard about it, we knew we had to be here. We're both passionate about this cause; it really strikes a chord for us," Monroe said. "I think it's the innocence factor — these animals really can't speak for themselves."

Condon and Marsh were pleased with the walk's turnout, but they both feel that the event will be even better next year.

"We were so happy with the response we received, but we hope to get more attention next year," Marsh, an architecture junior said. "This kind of event really bridges the gap between the students and the community, and it's for a great cause."

Texas taxpayers upset over new Robert Rodriguez film, 'Machete'

Aman Batheja

MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Should Texas taxpayers provide financial support for a violence-packed movie that plays off the tensions gripping the state and the nation in the raging debate over illegal immigration?

That's an emerging question as a new movie from Austin filmmaker Robert Rodriguez generates controversy that's reaching all the way to Gov. Rick Perry's office at a time when the state faces massive financial problems and is embroiled in the immigration debate.

Rodriguez is finishing up his latest film, "Machete," about an assassin from Mexico working as a day

laborer in Texas and battling a Mexican drug lord, as well as politicians opposed to illegal immigration. He says the controversy is overblown.

The movie, which uses the Texas capitol as a backdrop in at least one scene, is generating plenty of buzz, not just for the immigration controversy but also for a star-studded cast that includes Robert De Niro, Lindsay Lohan, Jessica Alba, Don Johnson, Cheech Marin and Steven Seagal. Quentin Tarantino is the producer of the movie, set to hit theaters Sept. 3.

Several conservative bloggers have called the film inflammatory in light of growing tension over an Arizona law cracking down on illegal immigration. And some are

outraged that the Texas Film Commission may grant Rodriguez's Troublemaker Studios tax incentives for shooting the film in the state.

"We need to get the funding at the state level stripped out of the film commission if they do not stop this," conservative radio host Alex Jones said.

Austin-based Troublemaker Studios applied for the tax incentives before the start of shooting. Under a state law passed in 2009, the Texas Film Commission can deny the incentives if a film includes content that's inappropriate or portrays Tex-

see *Machete*, page 8

sex & dating column

Alcohol and sex are not a match made in heaven



Sex has given the world of alcohol some of its most memorable drinks: Sex on the Beach, Orgasm, Blowjob, Slippery Nipple, Fuzzy Navel, Dirty White Mother and many more. Although I haven't had any of those and by had, I mean drank, I have had many opportunities to observe the complicated relationship between alcohol and sex. Far from the idyllic peanut butter and chocolate, this combo is more like batteries and a campfire: powerful, but dangerous.

The first time I got drunk, I remember being amazed at how simple life became. When an idea came into my head, instead of pondering pros and cons and logically deciding whether it was a good idea, I just did it. Luckily, that night I only talked the ears off my friends, saying pretty much whatever came to mind. But, that same mental state makes it easy to see sexual situations as simple, when they are, in fact, very complicated.

One of the most basic prerequisites for sex is that the people involved want to have sex. This sounds very obvious, but rarely does sex start with the couple intoning "I want to have sex" to each other. This is unnecessary because (usually) a combination of subtle and not-so-subtle clues. These can be quite hard to accurately interpret when you aren't operating at 100 percent. The "look" in someone's eye can easily be found, even if it does not actually exist.

Even when both people would have wanted to have sex anyway and were just benefiting from "liquid courage," sex while drunk is not exactly magical. Although low doses can make one feel sexy and more relaxed, larger doses of alcohol have the potential to sabotage the act of sex, suppressing both erections and feelings of arousal. Even if everything's working fine,

the possibility of throwing up all over the person and not even remembering the sex at all (and the worst sex is sex that you don't remember) might make you reconsider what the "courage" you gained was worth.

Of course, because of its power to impair judgment and cause blackouts, alcohol is often used when someone doesn't want to have sex. In fact, around 75 percent of people involved in sexual assault have been drinking, making alcohol the most commonly used date-rape drug. Although it not wise to allow yourself to get drunk enough that sex could happen against your will, rape is never the victim's fault. Legally, a drunk person can't consent to sex, so if upon waking up the next morning the drunk person feels that the sex was against their will, they can prosecute.

Alcohol, like sex, permeates our culture, affecting people's thoughts and actions. Drinking can affect one's sex life positively or negatively, and the line between the two is extremely fine. The loss of self-control is a powerful thing, especially in a sexual context, and therefore alcohol should be treated with the caution that it deserves.

In response to the comments made about my last article concerning free pregnancy prevention: According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov), Fertility Awareness methods are 75 percent to 99 percent effective at preventing pregnancy, which is comparable to the 85 percent to 98 percent effectiveness of male condoms. These methods can be combined for even more protection. Fertility awareness does not prevent the transmission of STIs, so it should only be used when this is not a concern. Fertility awareness should only be used by properly trained individuals.

Anthony Rust is a biological sciences junior and Mustang Daily sex columnist.



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'Sex and the City' returns with that same 'Sex' appeal

Joseph V. Amodio

NEWSDAY

NEW YORK — Last week outside Manhattan's Bergdorf Goodman, a white-haired woman with sensible shoes gestures to a window display featuring four female mannequins decked out in designer glitter.

"I bet those are the dresses from that movie," she says to her companion.

She's right.

"That movie" is the highly anticipated "Sex and the City 2," and little does she know that its stars — Sarah Jessica Parker, Cynthia Nixon, Kristin Davis and Kim Cattrall (along with Chris Noth and writer-director Michael Patrick King) are inside the store, having just wrapped up a news conference for the film, which opens Thursday.

To say there's buzz about this film is a bit like saying Lady Gaga has something of a following. Or Tiger Woods and his wife had a tiff.

After six seasons on HBO, late-night reruns in syndication and a blockbuster transition to the big screen two years ago (which earned \$415 million worldwide, thanks to droves of women who showed up — dressed up — at multiplexes), the four letters "SATC" spell a juggernaut franchise. Which is quite a feat, given that it's not an action-adventure flick. Or based on a comic book. Or starring ... guys. It's one chic, cinematic Sherman tank, driven by four women who range in age from 44 (Nixon) to 53 (Cattrall). Just picture all those Hollywood execs shrugging their shoulders, saying, "Go figure."

"No other book, movie, TV show or music group has gone as far redefining — and expanding — the relationship between female attractiveness and age," says Caroline Weber, a fashion historian and associate professor at Barnard College and Columbia University. Basically, she says, "SATC" has "made it permissible for women past 40 to present themselves as sexy. It's a huge mile-

stone in American popular culture."

Leading that charge is Parker, the brand's star and producer, whose buoyant, eyebrow-arched portrayal of Carrie Bradshaw gives the franchise both haute currency and heart. She speaks at the news conference in a smart, savvy, articulate manner, all the while perched in a short Elie Saab suit atop sky-high heels.

"I think women of a certain generation aren't even conscious of the fact that ... we are in the process of redefining our roles all the time," she says. "It's the great gift our mothers gave us."

The sequel boasts the usual "SATC" fare: sassy dialogue, fun cameos (Liza Minnelli, Miley Cyrus), crazy designer wardrobes. Yep, even in a recession. Like the first film, it woos with froth, then sneaks in the serious (touching on gay marriage, menopause, motherhood woes). Yet the sequel veers decidedly more toward romp than realism.

"Like they did in the Great Depression," says King, referring to glam 1930s flicks, "I thought Hollywood should take people on a big vacation that maybe they couldn't afford themselves."

That means ditching "The City" for a road trip to Abu Dhabi. Sort of. The Manhattan shoots were mobbed by devoted fans and paparazzi last year. A zoomed-in photo of Cattrall, holding a script (inadvertently revealing a snippet of dialogue) was overanalyzed by bloggers.

Morocco — where they actually shot the "Abu Dhabi" scenes — was a welcome relief.

"In the middle of the Sahara Desert, not a sound, (no) paparazzi," King says.

"When we arrived, they had musicians waiting to greet us," Nixon says.

"And scarves," Davis adds.

"And scarves, that we were then taught ... to tie into turbans to help keep you cool," Nixon says.

Yet even there, they were known. "That was kind of surprising," Cat-

trall says. "(They) kept calling us by our characters' names."

The audience is broad. Even straight men, says Parker, are 'fessing up. Just a couple years ago, "at the luggage carousel, I'd get" — then she whispers — "I watch your show." They'd say, "My wife, my girlfriend, forced me," she recalls. "Now they volunteer more freely the fact that occasionally they even watch it on their own."

The film will surely spark controversy. The poster has caused a stir, with print and online media noting the women's ruthlessly Photoshopped images. "They look like they've been molded out of wax," Weber says. "SATC" may insist women are beautiful at any age, but apparently Warner Bros. isn't so sure.

Whether a recessionary audience views the romp as refreshing or way over-the-top is yet to be seen. And let's just say that letting Samantha loose in a souk (an Arabian marketplace) with shorts and attitude may not grow the brand in more conservative parts of the Muslim world. (At press time, it was unclear if United Arab Emirates censors would let the movie be shown in Abu Dhabi.)

But one thing that's clear, Parker says, is "SATC's" commitment to women. Which may be needed more than ever, she fears, given the slew of so-called reality shows and their rude, crude female cast members.

"There's this beacon we seem to be moving toward where women are really unkind to one another, and call each other horrible names, and there's a vernacular our ears have adapted to, which I find really objectionable," she says. "When I look at a lot of what's available on television, and see how women treat each other, it's stunning to me — it's arresting."

The success of "SATC," she says, gives her hope that there's still a place "to illustrate that women would much rather be allies than ... adversaries."



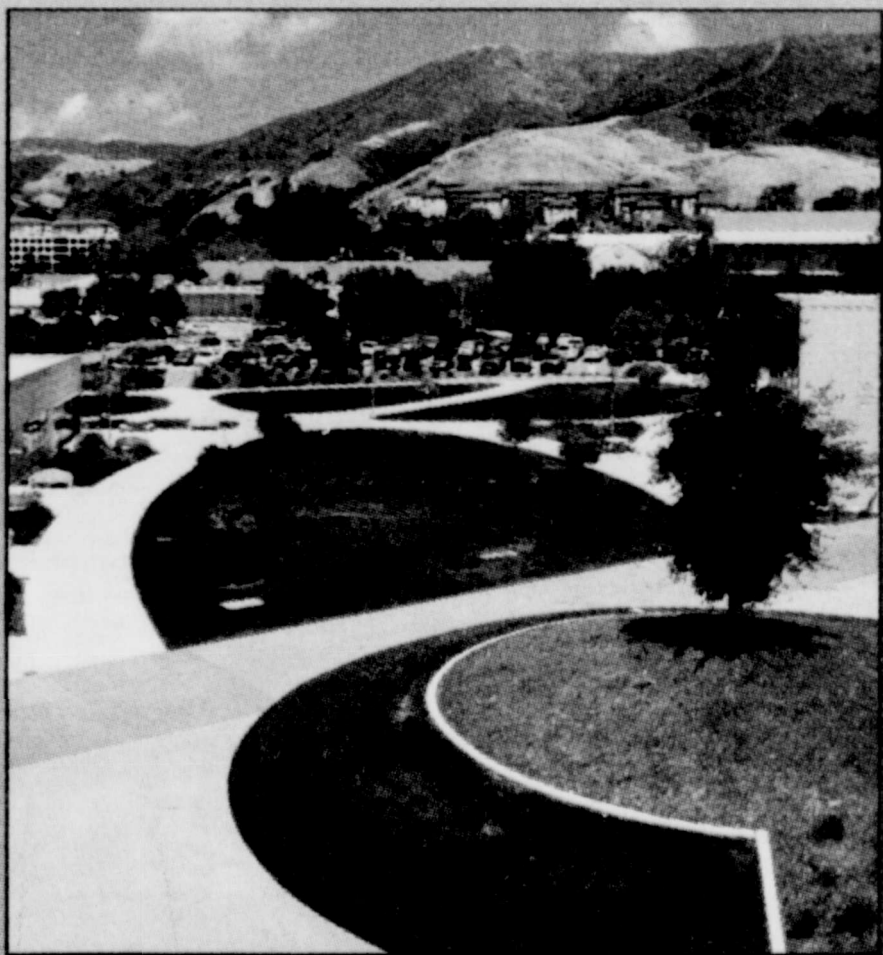
MCCLATCHEY-TRIBUNE

Cynthia Nixon as Miranda Hobbes, from left, Sarah Jessica Parker as Carrie Bradshaw, Kim Cattrall as Samantha Jones and Kristin Davis as Charlotte York in New Line Cinema's comedy "Sex and the City 2," a Warner Bros. release.

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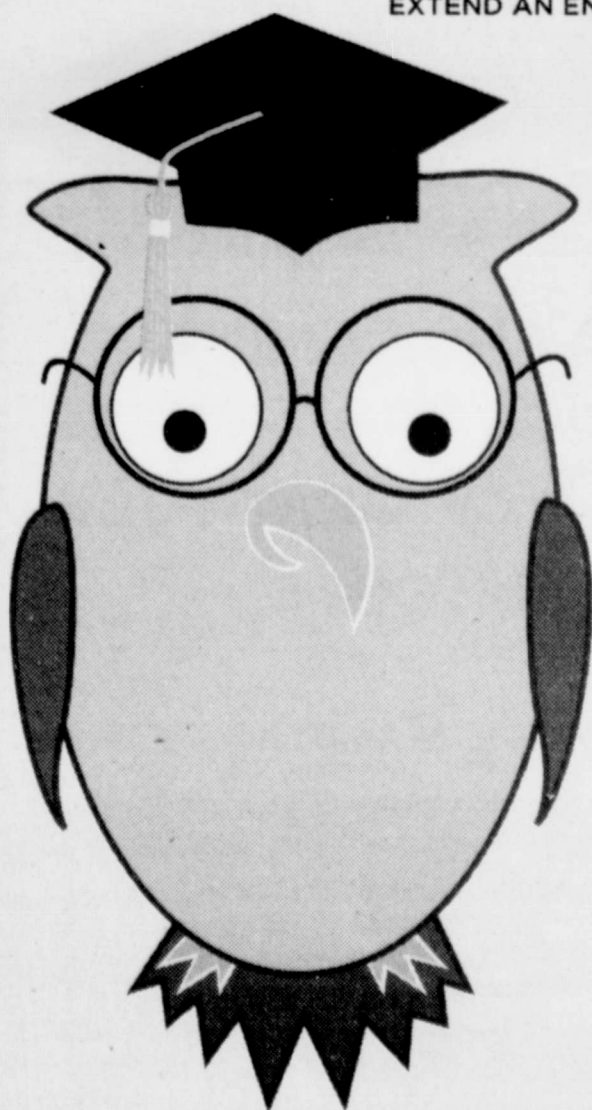


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Machete

continued from page 6

as or Texans negatively. The commission is part of Perry's office.

"No film/production company can receive any state funding until we have reviewed the final product," said Allison Castle, a spokeswoman for Perry's office, in an e-mail. "At this time, no funds have been released to Troublemaker Studios."

Rodriguez helped draw more scrutiny to "Machete" on May 5 when he released a fake trailer that framed the movie as a kind of revenge fantasy for illegal immigrants. At the start of the trailer, star Danny Trejo says he has "a special Cinco de Mayo message to Arizona."

Rodriguez later said the trailer was a joke.

"The movie is very over-the-top satirical, and it's only because of what's happened in Arizona that some scenes actually feel at all grounded in reality, which is pretty nuts and says more about Arizona than any fictional movie," Rodriguez told Harry Knowles of the movie news website Ain't It Cool News.

The film's distributor, 20th Century Fox, did not return calls seeking comment.

Texas Film Commission Director Bob Hudgins said the unease about "Machete" is similar to the concerns raised over a planned film last year about the 1993 raid on the Branch Davidian compound.

Hudgins reviewed the script of "Waco" and thought it was historically inaccurate. He talked to the

filmmakers about his concerns, and they chose to never officially apply for the incentives, he said.

The commission has yet to reject an official application for film incentives based on content, Hudgins said.

Hudgins said he saw a script for "Machete" around the time the filmmakers applied for the incentives. He didn't talk to the studio about the script because it didn't involve any nonfiction characters, he said.

"There were no real Texans involved in the story line," Hudgins said. "That may change. We don't know."

Hudgins said the language in the state law is vague enough that the commission could reject a film's application even if the film is completely fictional.

Hudgins is reserving judgment on "Machete" until he sees the final version.

Oddly, "Machete" may have been shot in a different state if not for Perry, who signed a bill last year giving his office the ability to grant larger tax incentives to lure filmmakers to shoot in Texas.

Perry signed the bill at an April 2009 ceremony at Rodriguez's Troublemaker Studios. Rodriguez told The Associated Press at the time that, without the bill, he would have had to move the production of projects including "Machete" to another state.

"Thanks to this bill, I don't have to go shoot out of the state," Rodriguez said.

Musicians turn to 'subscriber-investor' websites for financial backing of work

Randy Lewis

LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES — Singer and songwriter Sam Phillips played a small-scale show at Hollywood's Hotel Cafe for an intimate audience of several dozen. She was testing on a live audience new material she's been working on in her home recording studio.

For a select few regular visitors to her website, the new songs weren't so new — they'd been able to hear them weeks or months earlier as subscribers to her "Long Play" music and art project, an innovative way she's generating financial and emotional support for new music.

With Long Play, a website within her main site, Phillips has thrown open a virtual door to her creative world, inviting in fans to watch and participate as she writes and records a new album that she plans to release in the fall.

She's not alone. As the traditional record business has turned topsy-turvy, artists as well as startup companies are developing ways to finance the making of music today. A couple of European websites, Sellaband.com and Slicethepie.com, act as revenue-generating conduits between musicians and fans.

A few years ago, this "patronage model" was viewed as a potential replacement to the beleaguered major-label system. But with Sellaband on the rebound after filing for bankruptcy earlier this year, the tactic is no longer viewed as the savior. Rather, it's one weapon in an ever-expanding arsenal.

During a couple of decades as a major-label recording artist, Phillips

got used to a ritual in which a record company would put up the money to record new songs she'd written. She'd then wait for weeks, months, sometimes even years for those recordings to be released to the public.

Phillips, named one of the 25 best-reviewed artists of the recently concluded decade by the review-aggregate website Metacritic.com, spent 13 years in the '80s and '90s with Virgin Records, before shifting over a decade ago to the boutique Nonesuch label.

Recently, however, her Nonesuch

"Phone Booth." She writes a blog accessible only to subscribers, posts her art collages and short films, various ways of giving those who are most interested in closely monitoring her career a window into how she creates.

"This isn't for everybody," said the woman who also scored the music for the long-running USA Network series "The Gilmore Girls" and who starred as a mute terrorist opposite Bruce Willis in the 1995 thriller "Die Hard With a Vengeance." "I don't feel this is the new business model — whatever

that may turn out to be. To me, it's more of an art-and-music installation on the Web."

Securing financing directly from fans has provided Phillips with a newfound sense of freedom to pursue her artistic impulses without artistic second-guessing that can come from corporate overseers.

But reporting to subscriber-investors, with whom she has a greater sense of direct connection, "I feel more pressure to do something for them. It's not a (faceless) company and people out there that you don't know; it's Jill, it's Bruce, it's all these people who have sent their money to me. I've got to get something going for them, and I hope they like it."

"That I'm not sure I like," she said with a laugh, "but they've been happy so far."

"I couldn't be happier," said subscriber Jill Lorenz of Clayton, Calif., in the Bay Area. "I'm a big supporter of artists in general ... and always wanted to know more about their creative process: what books they read and what they thought about. The Long Play gives us this rare access and insight into Sam's world, and I'm grateful that she's willing to share that with us. The \$52 subscription price is a steal when you think about the price of one concert ticket to see a much less gifted musician at some gigantic venue these days."

The \$52 subscription price is a steal when you think about the price of one concert ticket to see a much less gifted musician.

— Jill Lorenz
Clayton, Calif.

contract came to an end. With the music business in disarray, she decided the time was right to launch an Internet-based forum for her back-alley cabaret pop songs and art. Visitors to her website can subscribe for \$52 which gives them access for one year to new music as she makes it, as well as a slew of special audio and visual content.

"We did it exactly the opposite from iTunes," Phillips, 48, said. "We put no music up and asked for \$52 for the year. And people responded, which is great."

Since going live with Long Play last fall, Phillips has pulled in about 1,000 subscribers who have provided her the budget she's using to keep working on the new album. But that's just the culmination of the year-long project.

She's also letting subscribers download a series of five EPs, each containing four or five new songs that she has recorded since the previous one.

She's also posting recorded conversations with some of the musicians she has invited in to play on the album, for a Long Play bonus feature called

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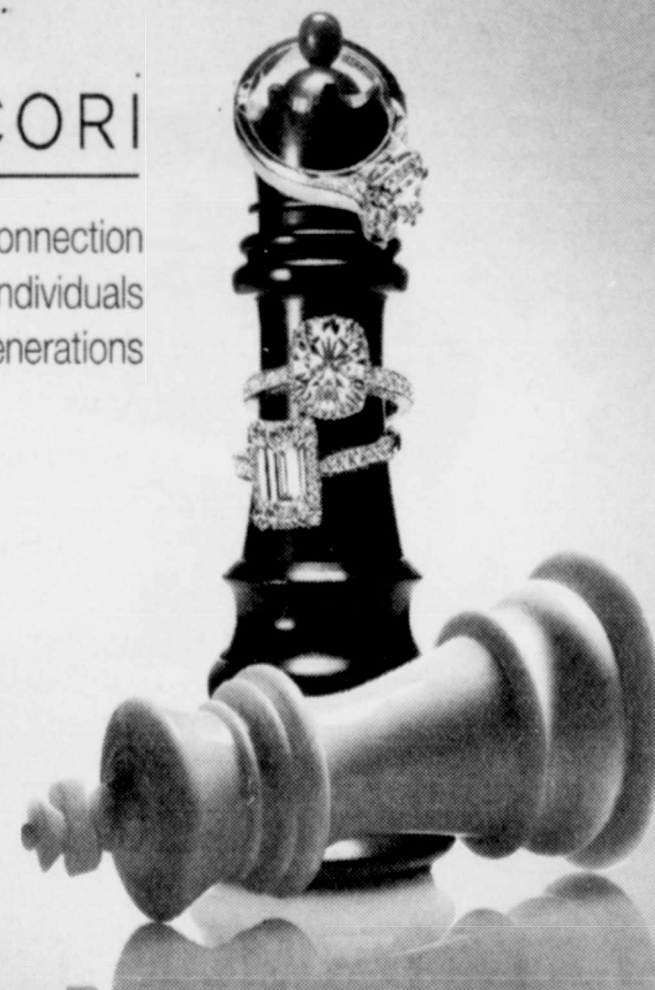


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Evidence overwhelming of N. Korea torpedo attack

MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

A multinational investigation has determined that the sinking on March 26 of a South Korean naval warship in the Yellow Sea was caused by a North Korean torpedo.

On Thursday, South Korea's Joint Civilian-Military Investigation Group released the results of its investigation into the incident, concluding that an underwater blast caused by a North Korean homing torpedo tore the Cheonan patrol vessel in two in waters west of the Korean Peninsula.

In a swift reaction to the release of the report, Pyongyang called the results "a fabrication," warning that any retaliation would prompt it to "respond with various forceful actions, including all-out war."

If circumstances take a turn for the worse, North Korea might resort to further flagrant provocations. Japan, the United States and South Korea must work together closely to prevent the reclusive state from behaving recklessly. China and Russia should also act in concert with the three nations.

The team of investigators included specialists from the United States, Britain, Australia and Sweden.

Fragments recovered from the waters where the Cheonan went down — components of a torpedo propulsion device, including a propeller — provided all the evidence needed to determine what happened. The fragments in question matched the schematics of a torpedo included in introductory brochures provided to foreign countries by North Korea for export purposes.

The investigative team's conclusion, supported by these pieces of material evidence, is convincing.

North Korea continues to deny

its involvement in the sinking. It should be remembered, however, that Pyongyang has lied about various criminal actions it has been accused of in the past. These include a spate of kidnappings targeting Japanese and a terrorist bomb explosion that occurred in Yangon 27 years ago, killing a number of people, including four South Korean cabinet ministers. Given this, North Korea's denial of its involvement in the sinking of the warship cannot be taken at face value.

The sinking of the Cheonan occurred in waters where repeated clashes between warships from the South and North have occurred. In November, a North Korean warship was damaged in an exchange of fire between South and North Korean ships in the Yellow Sea. Some South Koreans view the torpedo attack as retaliation by North Korea for this exchange of fire.

South Korea is fundamentally reviewing its defense policy in response to the sinking and is expected to further bolster its alliance with the United States. This apparently shows that the South Korean government learned a bitter lesson when it dropped its guard against North Korea as a result of the sunshine policy of engagement with Pyongyang adopted by the preceding left-leaning administration.

The South Korean government is expected to take the issue of the Cheonan's sinking to the U.N. Security Council.

In separate telephone conversations with South Korean President Lee Myung Bak, Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama and U.S. President Barack Obama pledged to support South Korea in addressing the issue at the Security Council. Japan and the United States should strive to ensure the council adopts a document that raises harsh questions about North Korea's respon-

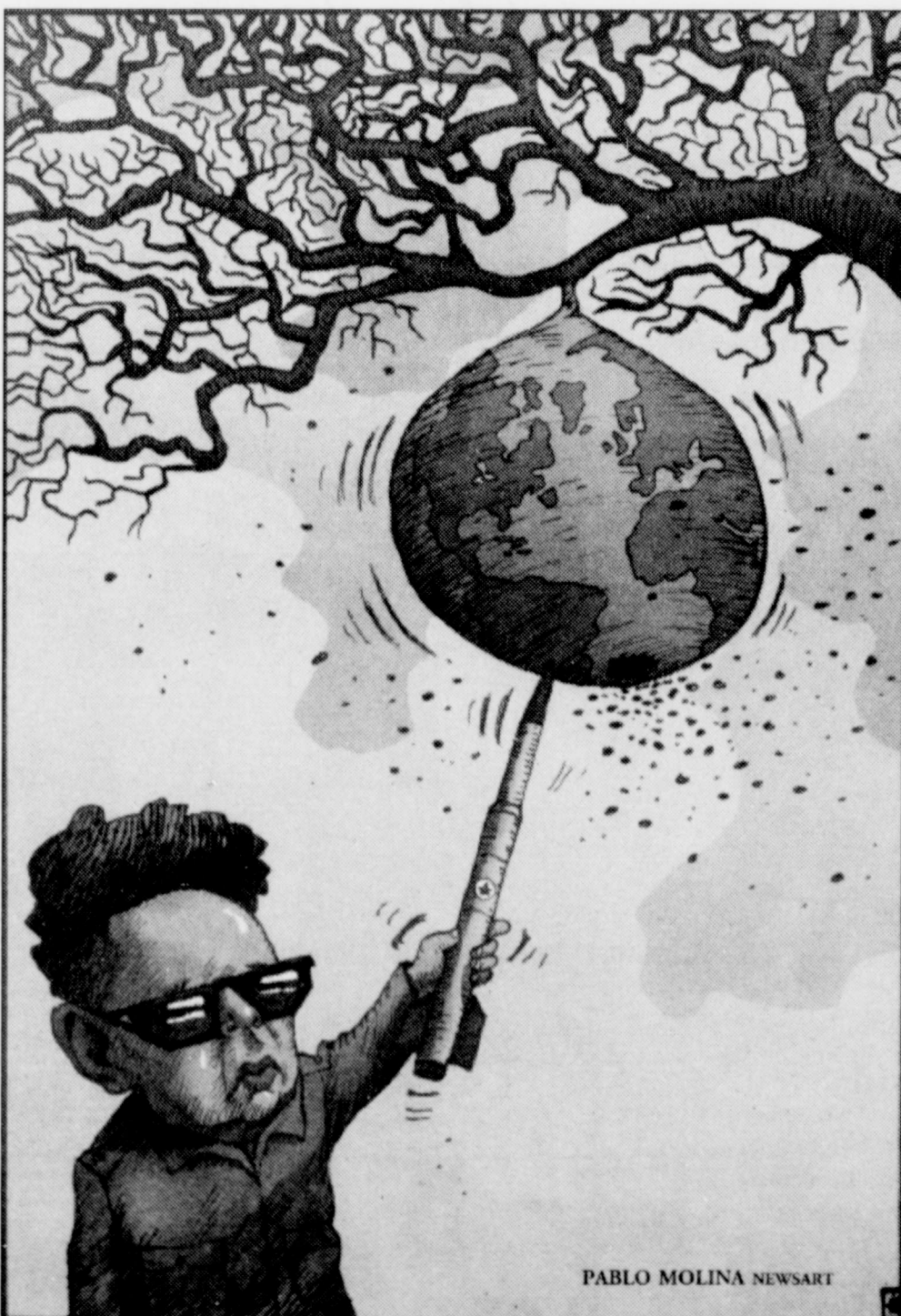
sibility for the sinking of the Cheonan.

Attention will be focused on whether China will choose to condemn North Korea in response to the release of the latest report. We hope the Chinese government will take a firm stance against North Korea.

Participants in the six-party talks aimed at having North Korea dismantle its nuclear weapons will probably have to postpone a resumption of their negotiations

for some time to come. However, doing so will help Pyongyang gain time to further advance its nuclear weapons development program, as it has been unwilling to return to the negotiating table.

North Korea's nuclear weapons program — a direct threat to our national security — must not be left unchecked. With this in mind, Japan needs to look for ways to open a new round of six-nation talks at an early date.



You are right on the money. Rand Paul never once condoned racism. He simply stood up for the Constitution.

The media's double-standard is on full display once again as a man who questions the constitutionality of a

small part — not most of — the Civil Rights Act is immediately deemed an unselectable racist with the entire media tearing him down. While our president gets a free pass for attending a black liberation church led by a man with a profound hatred of America and simultaneously announces his run for Senate from the living room of William Ayers ... give me a break.

—Richard Bailey
In response to "Rand Paul revisits

Civil Rights Act

OK. Yes Rand Paul wants to protect the Constitution and he probably isn't even racist, but he is ignorant to the fact that his views affect minorities negatively, and he's happily ready to let those people suffer, even though he said in his interview he wouldn't support a private business that discriminates. He is supporting them in the end because he supports the cause and is doing nothing about it. This is the 21st Century and we

need to evolve, instead of sticking to some bullshit.

—Anonymous
In response to "Rand Paul revisits Civil Rights Act

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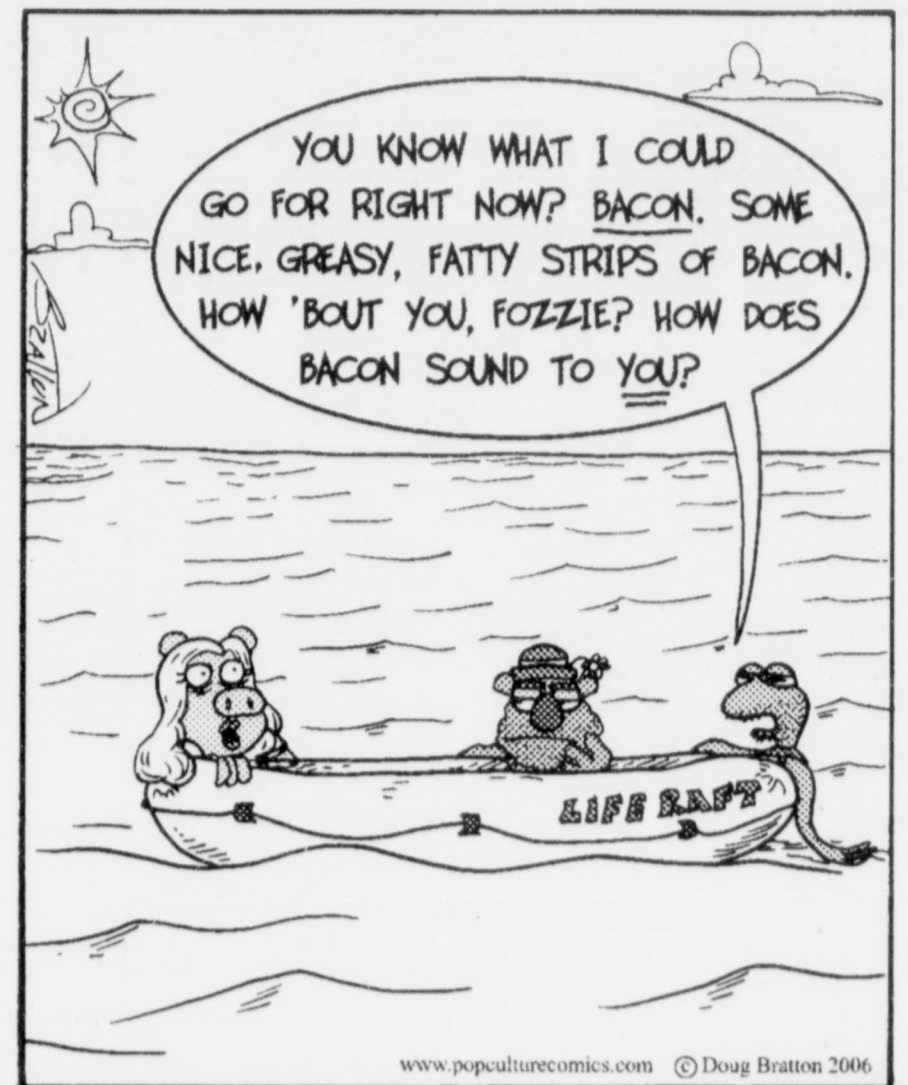
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BRADLEY! DENISE SHOWED UP WITH TWO FRIENDS. I NEED BACKUP ASAP!
WHAT DO THEY LOOK LIKE?
WELL, IT'S THE BEST OF TIMES AND THE WORST OF TIMES...

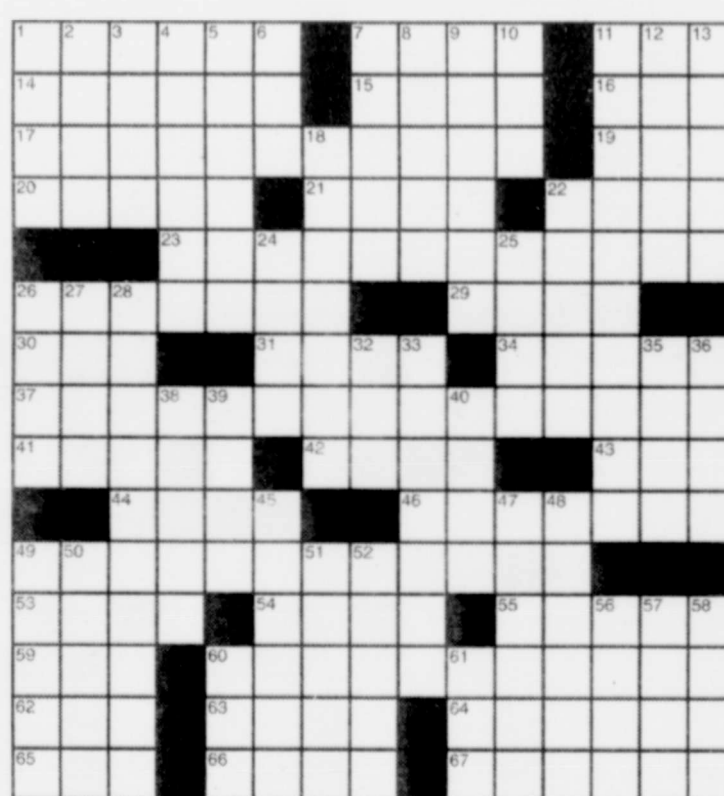
The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0420

- Across**
- 1 "What did Delaware?" "I don't know, but ___" (old joke)
 - 7 "I ___ bored!"
 - 11 Score components: Abbr.
 - 14 Decorate flamboyantly, in slang
 - 15 Simon ___
 - 16 Noisy fight
 - 17 King who was the son of Pepin the Short
 - 19 "___ Rocker" (Springsteen song)
 - 20 Electron's path
 - 21 River that ends at Cairo
 - 22 Cinematographer Nykvist
 - 23 Post-copyright status
 - 26 Sister of Snow White
 - 29 Smack hard
 - 30 Intuition, maybe: Abbr.
 - 31 Darkens
 - 34 Big name in vacuums
 - 37 La Choy product
 - 41 Russian country house
 - 42 F.B.I. guys
 - 43 Ming of the N.B.A.
 - 44 Puts away plates
 - 46 French carmaker
 - 49 Easternmost U.S. capital
 - 53 Graph paper pattern
 - 54 Food thickener
 - 55 For face value
 - 59 Cabinet dept. overseeing farm interests
 - 60 Fancy equine coil
 - 62 No. on a calling card
 - 63 Zealous
 - 64 Not polished
 - 65 Pothook shape
 - 66 Till compartment
 - 67 Like Dracula
- Down**
- 1 Classic record label for the Bee Gees and Cream
 - 2 Bert who played a cowardly lion
 - 3 Emirate dweller
 - 4 Indicator of rank
 - 5 Civilization, to Freud
 - 6 Distant cousin of humans
 - 7 Sapporo competitor
 - 8 ___ Johnson
 - 9 Church councils
 - 10 Sugar suffix
 - 11 Philip Marlowe or Sam Spade
 - 12 Actress Marisa
 - 13 Ex-Steeler Lynn
 - 18 Crown ___
 - 22 Unctuous flattery
 - 24 "Venerable" monk
 - 25 "Geez! That stings!"
 - 26 Shipping dept. stamp
 - 27 Dept. of Labor arm
 - 28 Scary, Baby, Ginger, Posh and Sporty
 - 32 Year McKinley was elected to a second term
 - 33 First American in space
 - 35 "Gotta go!"
 - 36 Muscle malady
 - 38 Hot: Fr.
 - 39 Kit ___ (candy bars)
 - 40 "Dedicated to the ___ Love"
 - 45 Excessively fast
 - 47 Japanese eel and rice dish
 - 48 Lose patience and then some
 - 49 Ornamental quartz
 - 50 Earnestly recommends
 - 51 "To repeat ..."
 - 52 Dust busters
 - 56 Peel
 - 57 Jug handle, in archaeology
 - 58 Stalk in a marsh
 - 60 Face the pitcher
 - 61 Old French coin

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

MACAW TWAS GLEE
PLUTO YORE MARX
HAROLD ROME AMAT
FROZE ACASE
SONOMA YELL ZEN
PROPANE ATTEST
ELLENGLASGOW
DYAN ONA ECHO
IRVINGBERLIN
ICETEA SAPPORO
NOLSTOA SISTER
ALIST BROIL
RACE JACKLONDON
ODIN AMER GUIDE
WATT NADA STEED



Puzzle by Paula Gamache

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Lakers' Andrew Bynum needs a seat to rest his knee

Bill Plaschke

LOS ANGELES TIMES

PHOENIX — How much more can the Lakers endure? The tear in Andrew Bynum's knee has officially become a pain in everyone else's neck.

End the charade. Begin his rest. From this point, he will have at least a week off before the start of the NBA Finals. Time won't heal the torn meniscus, but perhaps it will strengthen everything around it, including his spirit, and better prepare him for more important battles ahead.

It's a longshot. But it's the only shot the Lakers have. They can't continue shoving their big man on to a court where he grows smaller and smaller. They can't continue allowing him to stumble through a plodding, painful effort of barely seven minutes, which is what happened Sunday here during the Lakers' 118-109 loss to the Phoenix Suns in Game 3 of the Western Conference finals.

Slow on defense, slower to the basket, Bynum scored but once while picking up four fouls before being mercifully removed after playing only 34 seconds in the closing minutes of a tense fourth quarter.

Was he the reason Robin Lopez emerged from underneath his unruly mop to clatter around for 20 points? No, but Lopez got started early in the first quarter when he grabbed an offensive rebound and dunked over Bynum, a play that charged the US Airways Center crowd like it was three dozen points.

Was he the reason Amare Stoudemire emerged from underneath his big mouth to score 42 points while grabbing 11 rebounds? Of course not, but Stoudemire also got started early when he hit a jumper in Bynum's face while being fouled, resulting in a three-point play, more bellowing and balloon rattling.

The Lakers do not need Bynum to beat the quick Suns. He only slows them down. They can beat them with Lamar Odom, assuming Odom can find his head again after his own Sunday night horror show. It says here the Lakers can shut down Bynum and still win a series they lead two games to one.

"We adjust," said Kobe Bryant.

If the Lakers can't beat the Suns without Bynum, then they don't deserve to go to the NBA Finals anyway. This is not about the last week in May. This is about the first week in June. This is about a run at Kendrick Perkins and the Boston Celtics and history.

Sit him down. Take the chance. There's no other choice.

This is not a new idea. When coach Phil Jackson was asked afterward whether he had thought about resting Bynum for a game, he said, "Yes."

When asked to elaborate, he said, "I'll talk to him to see ... how he feels about it. I think he was ineffective."

Ineffective, or incapable? The numbers say that Bynum can no longer snuff out opponents on a knee that is killing him.

In the first five games of the postseason, he had three double-doubles. He tore his knee in the sixth game. He managed to play through the pain for a couple of games, but it's finally dragging him down.

In his last five postseason games, Bynum has averaged five points and five rebounds, and how is this skid going to stop? Fans have wondered whether Bynum should have had arthroscopic surgery immediately after his April 30 injury, thus giving him a chance to be ready for the Finals. But folks around the Lakers are saying that with this particular injury, recovery time would have been longer than a month, so it wasn't worth it.

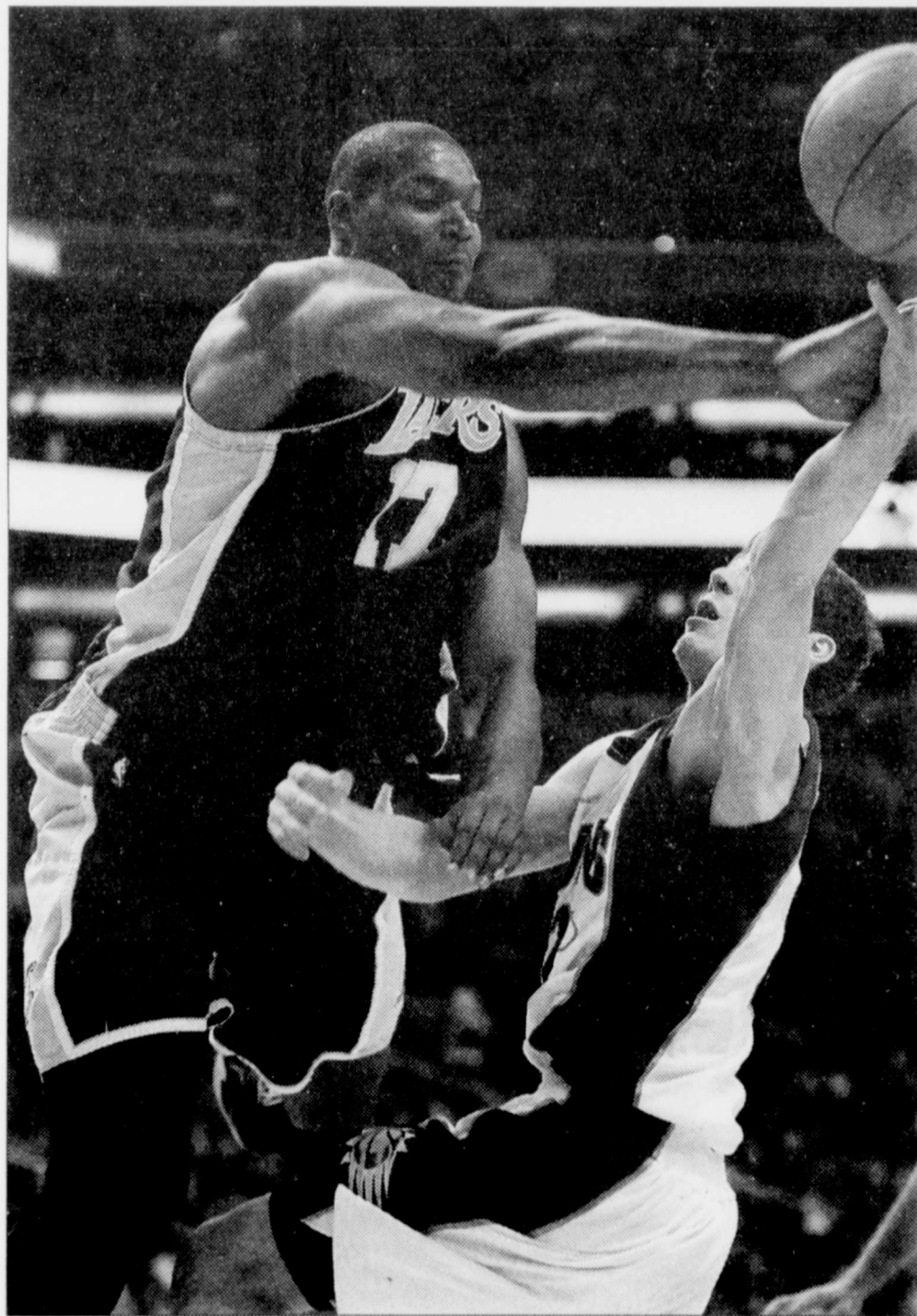
So Bynum has had to grin and bear it.

"I'm ready, I'm all right, I feel fine," he claimed Sunday night, shaking his head above the media crowd that grows larger around him every game. "It doesn't look to me like I'm hobbling."

"I'm the same every single day," he said. "I feel pain, then it goes away ... I feel pain, then it goes away ... I just need to play better."

He wants to be on the court. He's 22 years old and still searching for locker room credibility. He will never admit that his knee needs to be propped up on an ottoman instead of being banged around on a hardwood.

"Rest is not going to do anything," Bynum said. "Surgery is the only thing that will do something."



MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE

Center Andrew Bynum, who averaged 15 points per game in the regular season, scored two points against the Suns in the Lakers' 118-109 loss Sunday.



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CHUMASH AUDITORIUM

Freshman Mitch Haniger chooses college over the bigs



RYAN SIDARTO MUSTANG DAILY

Freshman Mitch Haniger has hit .317 with 12 doubles and six home runs this season. Haniger, a third-round selection by the New York Mets in 2009, led the Mustangs in batting average for weeks before being sidelined by an injury.

Alex Kacik

ALEX.KACIK@GMAIL.COM

Many highly-recruited high school baseball stars often face a tough decision upon graduation. Often persuaded by the allure of a professional contract, some talented players opt to forgo a college education for a shot at a paycheck flooded with zeros.

When high school standout Mitch Haniger graduated high school, he was faced with this same debacle. Books or bills?

With the New York Mets in one hand — Cal Poly Mustangs in the other — Haniger chose to stay in school.

"I kind of knew I wanted to go to college," the Cal Poly freshman right fielder and designated hitter said. "It's a one-time opportunity. It's something people talk about the rest of their lives and I didn't want to regret missing that."

Yes, he could come back to school, but "it wouldn't be the same," he said. The most stressful part of the process was a week before the draft when the Mets pressured Haniger to commit.

"They are pressuring you to tell them how much money you want and how much you will sign for ... (Scouts) will question you before so

you know where you stand before the draft," he said.

Money, injuries and development were factors that came into play. The Mets drafted Haniger in the third round, which he said made his choice easier. The organization told him they would make him an offer after summer, which Haniger spent playing for the San Luis Obispo Rattlers.

By the end of summer, Haniger "wasn't a priority. The Mets were focused on their top two draft choices they had yet to sign. At that point, Haniger's decision was a "no-brainer."

"My parents told me to do what I want," he said. "They wanted me to go to college, but I think it would've been different if I was drafted higher."

The Archbishop Mitty High School graduate hit .364, knocked in 25 runs and nailed 12 homers. But he didn't just excel in baseball.

Haniger set a league record with 42 receptions (75 overall for 789 yards and five touchdowns) in possibly the toughest football league in California — the West Catholic Athletic League. Football helped fortify his competitive nature.

"You train 11 months of the year for 12 games, it really makes you love winning or hate losing because you practice five days a week so hard for one game and don't play again till next week," Haniger said. "With baseball you play so often, like four games a week, that it's easy to accept losing, but football taught me to love winning and get after it; I hate to lose."

Haniger was on ESPN's High School Players to Watch list and named to the CalHiSports All-State First Team.

Cal Poly sophomore catcher Eliot Stewart grew up with Haniger, who he described as a "true student of the game." High school ball, travel ball, eight years of golf — Stewart has

"pretty much known (Haniger) forever."

"He has always carried the offense through every team we've been on, through high school and travel ball when we were 13," Stewart said. "He had high standards for himself and coach Lee and everybody else did for him too. He kind of carries the team as a young guy, which is nice."

On paper, his stats jumped off the page. In person, he was more impressive.

A 6-foot-2 frame, strong arm, "plus-power potential" at the plate, athleticism — Haniger has the obvious characteristics of a five-tool player. Not to mention he has baseball in his blood. His brother Jason — heralded as one of the nation's best catchers at Georgia Tech — was drafted by the Pirates two years ago.

But head coach Larry Lee said the intangibles are what distinguish the good ones from the great ones.

"He wants to be the guy: the player that lives

for the big opportunity that presents itself in a game," he said. "(There are) other players that tend to shy away. We found out early that Mitch relishes in that environment."

Lee referenced Cal Poly's first conference series against UC Riverside April 2.

Cal Poly was down to its final out, down 2-1 in the top of the ninth. David Van Ostrand forced a walk after a 10-pitch at bat. Jono Grayson pinch ran and stole second to set the stage for the composed freshman.

Each time Haniger steps to the plate he has a routine. He retightens his gloves and holds his helmet as he taps the corner of the plate. His back foot enters the box first as the righty points his front foot up the third-base line. Haniger takes an open stance as he stares to the mound. Three half practice swings later, he takes an even stance and waits as his bat slightly wags up and down just above his shoulder.

Focused and ready, he zoned in.

He looked at two pitches: one ball, one strike. When the third pitch came, he was sitting dead red.

"He threw me a fastball right down the plate and I smashed it over left field," Haniger said.

Although his two-run blast put the Mustangs up, Riverside scored a run in the bottom half of the inning. Cal Poly won in 10 innings.

Wins have been hard to come by for the Mustangs (20-31, 10-14 Big West). Cal Poly fell victim to injuries that compounded a short pitching staff. It didn't help when Haniger missed nearly half the season with back spasms.

"He's very competitive," Lee said. "He has

been playing with a bad back the majority of the season, but he is still holding his own."

Haniger has definitely held his own, especially when the team needed him. As of late, the Mustangs have caught fire at the plate. His poise has led to a .500 average with the bases loaded, a .317 average overall and six homers. His confidence has earned respect from his teammates.

"He has given our offense a big boost, he has that confidence with him," senior catcher Ross Brayton said. "We watched him and thought, 'Yea this kid is going to be good' ... He's one of our most consistent hitters, always good for two or three hits a game."

Lee said many players he recruits to Cal Poly need developing, but occasionally he gets the guy he wants or "steals them away from bigger schools." Haniger is a steal. Lee said he needs to be the player who steps up when the older players graduate this year.

"He will be able to pass every test," Lee said. "I think he's going to be a real talented player for us."

Preparation is the key. Haniger's work ethic, professionalism and mental stability is uncanny for a freshman, senior outfielder Adam Melker said.

"Age-wise he is a freshman, but mentally there isn't a gap between him and I," he said. "It's a unique case that you really can't tell he's young."

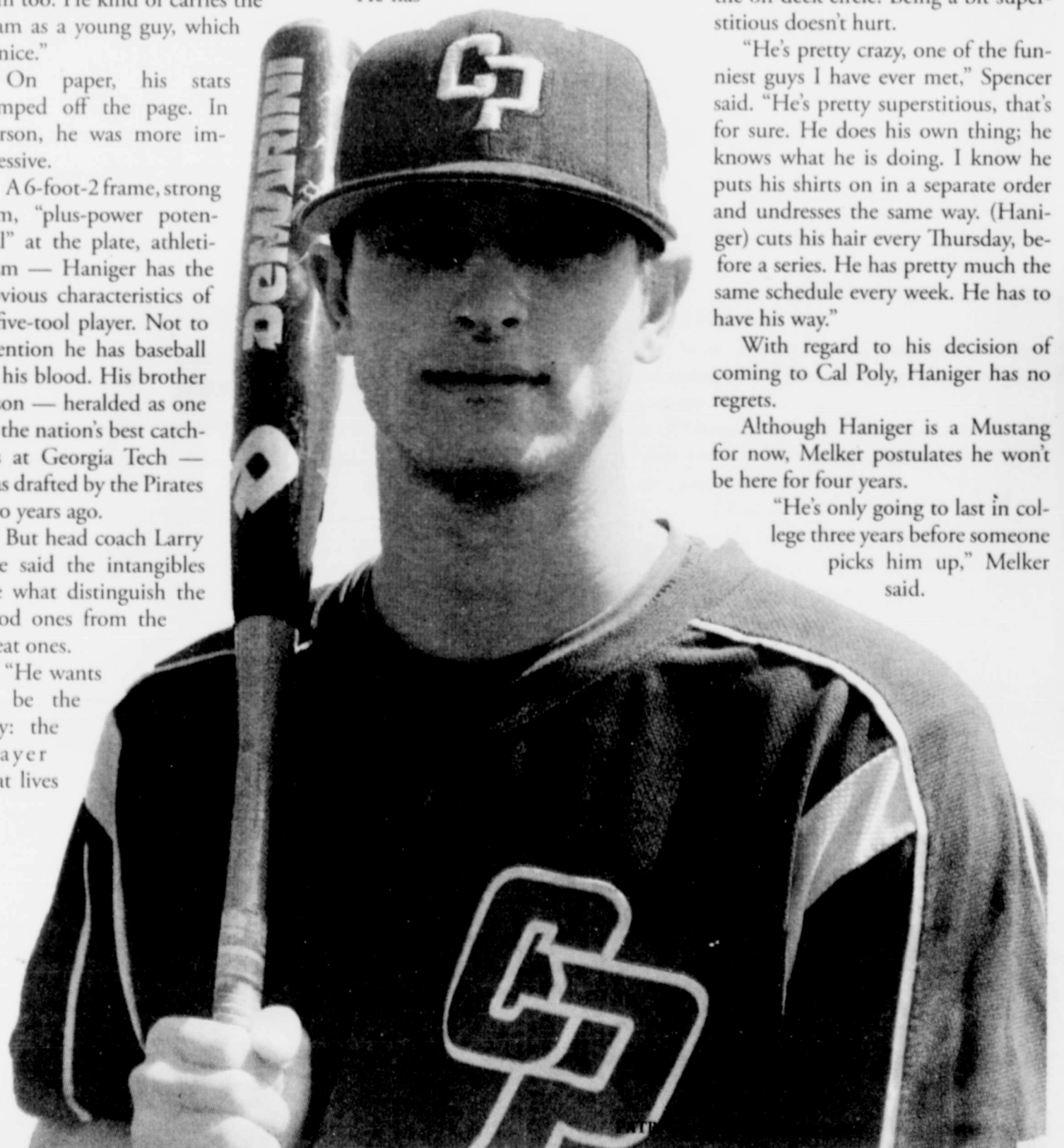
Between at-bats, Haniger hounds teammates in the dugout to get an edge on the opposing pitcher. He tries to stay as relaxed as possible because rigidity doesn't help in a reactionary game, said Haniger, who takes deep breaths while visualizing his at-bat in the on-deck circle. Being a bit superstitious doesn't hurt.

"He's pretty crazy, one of the funniest guys I have ever met," Spencer said. "He's pretty superstitious, that's for sure. He does his own thing; he knows what he is doing. I know he puts his shirts on in a separate order and undresses the same way. (Haniger) cuts his hair every Thursday, before a series. He has pretty much the same schedule every week. He has to have his way."

With regard to his decision of coming to Cal Poly, Haniger has no regrets.

Although Haniger is a Mustang for now, Melker postulates he won't be here for four years.

"He's only going to last in college three years before someone picks him up," Melker said.



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